GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3995
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2000
DRUG ADDICTION
AVTAR SINGH BHADANA;HARIBHAU MAHALE;P.R. KHUTE

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that addiction particularly, amongst the youths is spreading day by day in the country;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any study in this regard;

(c) if so, the findings thereof and the number of persons, State-wise;

(d) whether the United Nations has also extended its co-operation and assured India of financing and providing technical assistance in combating the spread of drug addiction in the country;

(e) if so, the details in this regard; and

(f) the manner in which the Government propose to utilize the said assistance?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SMT. MANEKA GANDHI)

(a),(b) & (c) : With reference to the drug addiction amongst youth of the country, the Ministry sponsored a multi-centred study in 1975-76 and a repeat study in 1985-86 to assess the prevalence of drug abuse amongst university students. The studies covered representative major cities of the country and the findings include inter alia higher prevalence of drug addiction amongst the male youth from the urban background. The findings of a nation- wide study conducted in 33 selected cities/towns and border areas in 1990 also indicate to the age group of 16-35 years as worse affected from addiction. This is also confirmed from the reports received by the Ministry from the organizations under its Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse.

(d),(e) & (f) The Ministry has launched two major projects on alcohol and drug demand reduction in collaboration with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and International Labour Organisation (ILO):
1) Community Wide Demand Reduction and Workplace Prevention in India 2) Community Wide Demand Reduction in the North-Eastern States of India
The projects to be implemented during the four year period from 1999-2003, in four phases will have an aggregate external financial contribution of US$ 5.60 million over the entire project period, to be shared between UNDCP and ILO. The Government of India, through its ongoing programme, shall also contribute US$ 16.35 million towards the projects. To briefly summarise, the projects shall strengthen the delivery of services for prevention and rehabilitation in the NGO sector; develop trained rehabilitation professional; sensitise legislators, administrators and community functionaries; and specifically address the vocational rehabilitation of the youth in the Northeast States of the country.